

WE CLAIM:

1. A process comprising hydrolyzing poly(vinylbenzyl acetate) in the presence of a basic catalyst.
2. The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrolysis is conducted in an organic solvent.
3. The process of claim 2, wherein the organic solvent is a pyridine.
4. The process of claim 2, wherein the organic solvent is tetrahydrofuran.
5. The process of claim 2, wherein the molar ratio of organic solvent to poly(vinylbenzyl acetate) is from about 100:1 to about 4:1.
6. The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrolysis is conducted at a temperature of from about 40 °C to about 100 °C.
7. The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrolysis reaction time is from about 1 hour to about 6 hours.
8. The process of claim 1, wherein the basic catalyst is a quaternary ammonium salt.
9. The process of claim 8, wherein the quaternary ammonium salt is a tetraalkylammonium hydroxide, wherein optionally the alkyl is linear or branched with from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms.
10. The process of claim 9, wherein the tetraalkylammonium hydroxide is tetrabutylammonium hydroxide.

11. The process of claim 8, wherein the quaternary ammonium salt is an aralkyltrialkylammonium hydroxide, wherein optionally the aralkyl is a benzyl and the alkyl is linear or branched with from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms.
12. The process of claim 11, wherein the aralkyltrialkylammonium hydroxide is benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide.
13. The process of claim 1, wherein the basic catalyst is a metal alkoxide, wherein optionally the metal is an alkali and the alkyl group is linear or branched with from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms.
14. The process of claim 13, wherein the metal alkoxide is sodium methoxide.
15. The process of claim 1, further comprising cooling the reaction mixture comprising the hydrolyzed poly(vinylbenzyl acetate) to a temperature of from about 10 °C to about 30 °C, adding water to precipitate the poly(vinylbenzyl alcohol) and recovering the poly(vinylbenzyl alcohol).
16. A process comprising converting poly(vinylbenzyl chloride) to poly(vinylbenzyl acetate); and hydrolyzing the poly(vinylbenzyl acetate) in the presence of a basic catalyst.
17. The process of claim 16, wherein the hydrolysis is conducted in an organic solvent.
18. The process of claim 17, wherein the organic solvent is a pyridine.
19. The process of claim 17, wherein the organic solvent is tetrahydrofuran.

20. The process of claim 17, wherein the molar ratio of the organic solvent to the poly(vinylbenzyl acetate) is from about 100:1 to about 4:1.
21. The process of claim 16, wherein the hydrolysis is conducted at a temperature of from about 40 °C to about 100 °C.
22. The process of claim 16, wherein the hydrolysis reaction time is from about 1 hour to about 6 hours.
23. The process of claim 16, wherein the basic catalyst is a quaternary ammonium salt.
24. The process of claim 23, wherein the quaternary ammonium salt is a tetraalkylammonium hydroxide, wherein optionally the alkyl is linear or branched with from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms.
25. The process of claim 24, wherein the tetraalkylammonium hydroxide is tetrabutylammonium hydroxide.
26. The process of claim 23, wherein the quaternary ammonium salt is an aralkyltrialkylammonium hydroxide, wherein optionally the aralkyl is a benzyl and the alkyl is linear or branched with from about 1 to about 20 carbon atoms.
27. The process of claim 26, wherein the aralkyltrialkylammonium hydroxide is benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide.
28. The process of claim 16, wherein the basic catalyst is a metal alkoxide, wherein optionally the metal is an alkali and the alkyl group is linear or branched with from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms.

29. The process of claim 28, wherein the metal alkoxide is sodium methoxide.
30. The process of claim 16, further comprising cooling the reaction mixture comprising the hydrolyzed poly(vinylbenzyl acetate) to a temperature from about 10 °C to about 30 °C, adding water to precipitate the poly(vinylbenzyl alcohol) and recovering the poly(vinylbenzyl alcohol).
31. Poly(vinylbenzyl alcohol) made by the process of claim 1.
32. An imaging member containing a charge blocking layer comprising poly(vinylbenzyl alcohol) generated by the process of claim 1.